

David Lloyd ap Ellis (c. 1487–c. 1570)

Origin and Family

Born c. 1487. Died c. 1570.

Father: [Ellis ap Griffith](#) ap Einion (c. 1427–1489)

Mother: Margaret verch Jenkyn ap Ievan of Bodidris (c. 1442–1515)

Spouse: Gwenhwyfar, daughter of Richard Lloyd (c. 1511–1580)

Children:¹

1. [John Yale](#) (Wynn) (c. 1525–c. 1572)
2. Griffith Lloyd
3. [Thomas Yale, LL.D.](#), died 1577
4. Hugh Yale (born c. 1520 and died between 1602-1616)
5. Roger Lloyd ap Ellis
6. Jane
7. Ellen

From Rodney Horace Yale¹: “He was of Plas-yn-Yale, and married Gwenhwyfar, daughter of Richard Lloyd, of Llwynymaen derived from Hedd Molwynog, Lord of Uwch Aled, and had issue, five sons and two daughters”:

- John Yale, also called John Wyn, or Wynn.
- Griffith Lloyd, a doctor.
- Thomas Yale, LL.D., Prebendary of St Asaph, 7 July 1564. Dean of the Arches, and Chancellor of Bangor. Dr. Yale, who was also Chancellor of Francis Parker, died in 1577.
- Hugh Yale, an Alderman of Oswestry.
- Roger Lloyd ap Ellis, of Brynglas Lloyd, county Denbigh, called “Mr Ellis” who was secretary to Cardinal Wolsey, married Katherine, daughter of William ap Griffith Vychan, Lord of Kymmer-yn-Edeirnion, and Baron of Edeirnion, qui vixit, June 15 Henry VIII, 1525, and was father of John Wynne ap Roger Lloyd of Caedwrig, ancestor of the Lloyds of Plas Einion, Bryn Eglwys, etc.
- Jane. She married first Edward Trevor, Brynkynnalt, county Denbigh, and second, John Hammer.
- Ellen. She married Robert Lloyd, of Haighton.

During the life of David Lloyd ap Ellis, a long struggle took place for the English crown between the house of York and the Tudors, culminating in 1485 when Henry Tudor won a decisive victory which enabled him to assume the crown of England. Henry was of Welsh descent and “Welsh historians portrayed Henry’s court as a place where the Welsh were held in high honor.”²

The uprising of Owain Glyndwr in the early 1400s ruined the Welsh economy for several decades. The lordship of Denbigh produced no income for several years.² It was a poor county during the early life of David Lloyd ap Ellis, but like the rest of Wales prosperity slowly returned during his lifetime.

David Lloyd ap Ellis is the last ancestor to use the traditional “ap” system for surnames. This is 14 generations in the Yale family line of descent prior to the establishment of permanent last names. The name Yale derives from Ial, a valley in Denbigh, North Wales, known as the vale of Ial. Plas-yn-Yale is the ancestral home of the Yale family after Cors-y-Gedol. It means “Hall of Yale” or alternatively “House of Yale” or “Place of Yale”.



Occupation and Property

According to local historian L. Gordon Sherratt,³ Plas-yn-Yale originally was a wooden structure but was rebuilt by David Lloyd's father Ellis ap Griffith. "About the year 1450, Ellis ap Griffith took as his wife Margaret, and by using the proceeds from the sale of part of his inheritance 'did build for his wife a new house at Yale, better than that to which she had been accustomed.' And so begins the development of the present house built in stone—a new development for hereabouts—said to have been the first so built in Denbighshire, and certainly one of the earliest in North Wales."³

David Lloyd ap Ellis succeeded to Plas-yn-Yale and was a member of the Welsh gentry in North Wales. He most likely had tenant farmers work his land and he probably raised cattle or sheep. At the time, Plas-yn-Yale was situated in a wooded area with plenty of fish and game. In more recent years, it was used as a hunting lodge.



[William A. Yale](#) (the author's uncle) arranged through the local historian L. Gordon Sherratt to have a local artist paint the portrait of Plas-yn-Yale shown above. This painting was done in the 1970s and is an accurate depiction of how the estate looked at that time. Over the front door is the Yale Coat-of-Arms. Other farm buildings and a private garden are not shown but are behind the house.



At the front door of Plas yn Yale in 1979. Left to right: Max Yale, the author Brian Yale, Dave Yale (kneeling), Ivor Beech (tenant), Randy Yale. Note the Yale coat of arms over the door.



In the garden at Plas yn Yale in 1979. Foreground left to right: Ivor Beech (tenant), Bill Yale, Randy Yale; Background left to right: Max Yale, David Yale.



In the old St Mary's Church in Oswestry, David Lloyd ap Ellis's son Hugh Yale is interred with the plaque: "In memory of Mr. Hugh Yale, Alderman of this town, and Dorothy his wife, daughter of Roger Roden, Esq., of Burton, in the county of Denbigh, whose bodies are interred within the chancel of this church, called St. Mary's, before its demolition in the late wars, anno 1616. They gave to the poor of this town the yearly interest and benefice of one hundred pounds, to continue forever, besides other good acts of charity."⁴

Ellis ap Griffith had son David around age 60. David's son Hugh Yale is said to have died between 1602 and 1616, so it is reasonable to assume he was born after 1530. If so, Ellis was about 43 when Hugh was born. Fathers may have delayed starting families until they received their inheritance or completed military service in their younger years. Regardless, according to Mr. Sherratt³, large families were normal in the era after the Owain Glyndwr uprising to "repopulate the country and to create soldiers for new wars that would surely come."³

End of Life

The year of death for David Lloyd ap Ellis is unknown, but given the ages of his children and close ancestors, 1570 is a fair approximation. His wife Gwenhwyfar ferch Richard was significantly younger than David, surviving him by a decade or more.

Research Notes

Online Genealogy References:

WikiTree ID: [Ab_Ellis-2](#)

FamilySearch ID: [LD95-TRV](#)

Further Reading:

- Yale, Max Brian. [Guide to the Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection](#). *Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection*. 2025
- Yale, Max Brian. [Yale Family Coat of Arms](#) - Origin and History. *Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection*, 2025

References

1. Yale, Rodney Horace. *Yale Genealogy and History of Wales*. Beatrice, NE: Milburn & Scott, 1908. Ref no.14 [p. 79](#)
2. Davies, John. [A History of Wales](#), London, England: Penguin Press, 1990.
3. Sherratt, L. Gordon. "Some Account of Plas-yn-Yale and the Yale Family", 1972 Manuscript
4. Lloyd, Jacob Youde William. [The History of Princes, the Lord Marcher, and the Ancient Nobility of Powys Fadog](#). London, England: T. Richards, etc., 1885

